

TOWN OF VERNON 20 SEP -9 PM 3:45



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Town Administrator

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Assistant Town Administrator

DRAFT MINUTES

Town of Vernon Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 11:00AM

Via Zoom Audio Teleconference

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and Recovery Officer; Bruce Klotter, President of Swiss Cleaners; Andrew Marchese, Zoning Enforcement Officer; George McGregor, Town Planner; Steven Prattson, Building Official; Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency Management Director; Lou Spadaccini, Town Attorney; Patrice Sulik, Director North Central District Health Department; and Daniel Wasilewski, Fire Marshal.

Members Absent: Julie Clay, Town Council Member; Russell DeBella, General Manager of Reins New York Style Deli Restaurant; James Kenny, Chief of Police; and Pauline Schaefer, Town Council Member;.

Additional: Captain John Kelley and Cassandra Santoro, Recording Secretary

Roll call was performed at 11:01 AM by Cassandra Santoro.

2. Public Comment

None

3. COVID-19 Incident Command Update

Michael Purcaro updated the Committee on the following:

- Mr. Robert Testa, Assistant Superintendent of Vernon Public Schools will be giving an overview of the reopening of schools.
- Governor Ned Lamont, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, State Education Commissioner Miguel Cardona and many local state leaders and officials visited Skinner Road School this week.

- The Town is in the process of reopening the Library to residents. Transition phase is being planned currently. Appointments will be made in 30 minute intervals and customer service is the number one priority.
- Senior Center Advisory Committee has met to discuss the reopening of the Senior Center. Looking to reopen the senior center for priority services such as medical clinics, screening services, shopping and driving services.
- Two new businesses opened in town – Get Fresh Laundromat on West Main Street and Ocean State Job Lot on Hartford Turnpike.
- The Town is now focusing on businesses – Schools are in good shape and testing is consistent at this point.
- Spare time bowling alley is offering a promotion to all Town employees for a free game of bowling and a free arcade game play.
- The new Communication Specialist David Owens has been hired. He is doing a wonderful job.

Discussion ensued.

4. School Reopening Update

Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa explained that the Vernon Public Schools met weekly this summer at the Health and Safety meetings that consisted of Administration, nurses, climate specialists, food and nutrition workers and many more for the reopening of schools. The week before school started there was also five (5) professional learning days to train all staff on the virtual learning platforms.

Mr. Testa further explained that schools are made up of strict cohorts of children. Dr. Joseph Macary and Robert Testa toured all 7 schools on the first day of school and there were no issues. Mr. Testa said that it was nice to see all of their planning for the safety and well-being of students come together. The goal is to have all students back to school full time.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Testa explained that they are working to continue to build confidence in community members. Both virtual or in person options are available to all students and as soon as full virtual students are comfortable with returning to in person, they are able to. Administration is keeping up with calls and continuing to listen to concerns from parents and staff.

5. Current Guidance and Orders

Shaun Gately explained that Governor Ned Lamont's Emergency Declaration is in place until February 9, 2020. Mr. Gately is still waiting to hear back from the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce regarding assistance with applications. Local businesses have become the spot light at this point to keep them thriving and doing well during this time.

Discussion ensued.

6. Local Recovery and Reopening Strategy

Patrice Sulik explained that there have been clusters of positive COVID tests in the district. The focus is now on Board of Educations and answering questions for them and assisting them in any way they can.

Discussion ensued.

7. Next Steps

The Local Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee will continue to meet weekly.

8. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2020.

Approval of the minutes for August 27, 2020 meeting were moved by Daniel Wasilewski and seconded by George McGregor. No discussion. The motion passed with no opposition.

9. Adjournment

George McGregor made a motion to adjourn at 11:28AM. Daniel Wasilewski seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Cassandra Santoro,
Recording Secretary